back into the active portion upon a miss that targets at least one local variable from among said set of local variables.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the active portion is flushed to invalidate said active portion.

20. A method, comprising:

using only a first portion of a cache memory data array to store local variables until said first portion has insufficient capacity for storing additional local variables, said cache memory data array comprising the first portion and a second portion;

once the first portion has insufficient capacity for storing additional local variables, using only the second portion of the cache memory data to store said additional local variables and not using the first portion; and

when the second portion has insufficient capacity for storing additional local variables, copying the local variables from only the first portion to external memory.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising selecting a policy for the cache memory data array based on whether a state of the cache memory data array, said policy being either a cache policy in which a miss results in an access of the external memory or in a scratch pad policy in which a miss does not result in an access of the external memory.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising copying local variables from the external memory to only one of said first or second portions.

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